

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida yielding me this time.

One of the low points for me in my tenure in Congress is what we have visited as the Congress adjourned last fall. We dealt with an omnibus spending bill. I think people on both sides of the aisle, people of all different philosophical orientations were frustrated that we were doing the people's business in this fashion with billions of dollars, nobody really knowing what was in it; and it was something that none of us would be proud of back home in the smallest city or county.

I personally feel that we need to take each opportunity to recommit ours to a thoughtful, reasonable, effective bipartisan approach to dealing with the people's money. I strongly support the motion to instruct by the gentleman from Michigan. I am pleased to hear that he does not think it goes quite far enough. I appreciated the colloquy clarifying the intent on some of these very destructive environmental riders.

My sincere hope is that this will be the beginning in this Congress of our having a bipartisan approach to make sure that we do handle the budget in a more thoughtful fashion.

I commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Upton) for his efforts. I like the spirit of bipartisanship that has been advanced. I hope that we can take every opportunity in the days ahead to follow up on this, because I think we can do a better job of discharging our responsibilities, getting more out of the tax dollar, and making people feel better about this institution.

I think this is a very important part in this effort, and I look forward to it leading to new steps for our being able to work together to put more integrity in the budgetary process.